

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 13978 310456Z

17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-01

CEA-01 NSCE-00 AGR-05 SAM-01 L-02 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 SAJ-01 IO-10 /096 W
----- 022412

R 310321Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3317

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EAGR, CH

SUBJECT: HUNAN CALLS FOR HIGHER DEGREE OF COLLECTIVIZATION

SUMMARY: A HUNAN EDITORIAL SUGGESTS THAT PRC RURAL POLICY GOALS MAY BE AIMED AT MOVING TO A HIGHER DEGREE OF COLLECTIVIZATION IN THE COUNTRYSIDE BY SHIFTING EMPHASIS FROM THE TEAM TO THE BRIGADE AND COMMUNE. INCREASED ACTIVITIES AT THE BRIGADE AND COMMUNE LEVEL ARE DIRECTLY LINKED TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH RURAL MECHANIZATION AND ARE CALLED AN "URGENT REQUIREMENT" BUT WITHOUT A DEADLINE BEING SET FOR IT.

WHILE IT CAUTIONS AGAINST GOING TOO FAST, THE EDITORIAL'S ARGUMENT IS, ON BALANCE, CLEARLY DIRECTED TOWARD FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNE AND BRIGADE RESPONSIBILITIES, AND IT CRITICIZES "SOME LEADERS" FOR FAILING TO UNDERSTAND

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PAGE 02 HONG K 13978 310456Z

SUFFICIENTLY THE IMPORTANCE OF DOING SO. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ONE OF THE CLEAREST STATEMENTS ON FUTURE COMMUNE POLICY THAT WE HAVE NOTED, A BROADCAST (DEC 23) OF A "HUNAN DAILY" EDITORIAL GIVES SUBSTANCE TO EARLIER INDICATIONS (REFTEL) THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO MOVE TOWARD A HIGHER DEGREE OF COLLECTIVIZATION IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE BY SHIFTING THE FOCUS OF RURAL ACTIVITIES FROM THE PRODUCTION TEAM TO THE BRIGADE AND COMMUNE LEVEL. ECHOING PHRASES FROM MAO'S 1955 CALL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNES, THE REPORT STATES THAT TO STRENGTHEN THE COLLECTIVE ECONOMY OF THE TWO LEVELS OF COMMUNE AND BRIGADE IS THE "INEVITABLE TREND FOR THE CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOVEMENT OF COMMUNIZATION AND AN OBJECTIVE LAW WHICH IS INDEPENDENT OF PEOPLE'S WILL." THE REPORT CALLS COMMUNE AND BRIGADE ENTERPRISES "SOCIALIST NEWBORN THINGS" AND DIRECTLY IDENTIFIES THEIR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT WITH A HOST OF SACROSANCT MAOIST PRINCIPLES AND GOALS CURRENTLY BEING TRUMPETED IN THE MEDIA.

2. THE EDITORIAL STATES THAT COMMUNE AND BRIGADE ENTERPRISES ARE ESSENTIAL TO SPEEDING UP AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION. IN THE EDITORIAL'S VIEW, PRODUCTION TEAMS ARE NOT CAPABLE OF PURCHASING LARGE FARM MACHINES AND BUILDING FARMLAND AND WATER CONSERVANCY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. THESE ARE DESCRIBED AS "URGENT REQUIREMENTS" FOR DEVELOPING PRODUCTION, BUT THE REPORT CAUTIONS AGAINST THE "LEFTIST" ERROR OF "IMPATIENTLY AND BLINDLY" SEEKING "UNIFIED ACCOUNTING" (READ: BASIC ACCOUNTING UNIT) BY THE BRIGADE OR COMMUNE. RATHER, COMMUNE AND BRIGADE DEVELOPMENT IS SEEN AS PART OF THE LONGER TERM (IN THE FIFTH FIVE YEAR PLAN?) WHERE OWNERSHIP DEVELOPS FROM THE "SMALL COLLECTIVE" TO THAT OF THE "BIG COLLECTIVE" TO THAT OF "THE WHOLE PEOPLE." FAILURE TO SEE THIS "BRIGHT FUTURE" WILL LEAD TO "RIGHTIST ERRORS." (THE EDITORIAL DOES NOT SEEM TO ENVISAGE AN IMMEDIATE WITHERING AWAY OF THE PRODUCTION TEAM.)

3. WE HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY SEEN A PRC MEDIA REPORT ON COMMUNE ORGANIZATIONS TO MATCH THIS ONE IN ITS DIRECTNESS OF INTENT AND LANGUAGE. IT POINTS CLEARLY TO THE HIGHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 HONG K 13978 310456Z

DEGREE OF COLLECTIVIZATION THAT WAS ONLY IMPLIED AT THE RECENT POOR AND LOWER MIDDLE PEASANT CONGRESSES IN KWANGTUNG (REFTEL AND KWANGSI AND ONLY HINTED AT RECENTLY IN OTHER MEDIA COVERAGE. THE COMMUNE POLICY SPELLED OUT IN THE HUNAN EDITORIAL, WHILE HAVING POTENTIALLY MAJOR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE DOES NOT APPEAR TO SIGNIFY ANY HEADLONG RUSH TO A HIGHER DEGREE OF COLLECTIVIZATION. THE TIME FRAME IS LEFT VAGUE ENOUGH TO

ENCOMPASS A VARIETY OF TEMPOS DEPENDING ON LOCAL CONDITIONS.
THE INJUNCTIONS AGAINST THE LEFTIST ERROR OF GOING TOO
FAST AND THE RIGHTIST ONE OF IGNORING THE THE TREND TOWARD
COLLECTIVIZATION ALSO SEEM DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE
FLEXIBILITY. IN SHORT, THE CADRE ARE URGED TO PRESS
FORWARD RAPIDLY BUT NOT TO THE POINT OF GOING SO FAST AS
TO DISRUPT PRODUCTION. THE EDITORIAL'S THEMES HAVE NOT
YET BEEN PICKED UP IN OTHER PROVINCES, SO IT IS A BIT
TOO EARLY TO CONCLUDE THAT THEY REFLECT A CENTRAL DIREC-
TIVE. NEVERTHELESS, THEY SEEM TO US TO BE A LOGICAL
DEVELOPMENT OF GOALS AND SLOGANS THAT ARE IN WIDESPREAD
USE. (SEE ESPECIALLY THE ARTICLES ON CHIA-TING COUNTY
AND CHIEN-CHIN FARM IN SHANGHAI'S ("STUDY AND CRITICISM"
NUMBERS 9, 10 AND 11).
CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HONGK13978
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740377-1087
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974123/aaaaabrf.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUNAN CALLS FOR HIGHER DEGREE OF COLLECTIVIZATION SUMMARY: A HUNAN EDITORIAL SUGGESTS THAT PRC RURAL POLICY
TAGS: ECON, EAGR, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005